

LIAISON

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
LONDON, W. 1.

20 December 1954

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[redacted]
Chief, FBIS
2430 E Street
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Alan:

Subject: BBC Coverage of TASS Hellschreiber Services

It is indeed time you had a report on the status of BBC negotiations over the right to copy the TASS Hellschreiber Services.

Mr. Campbell has just informed me that an agreement has been reached with GPO concurrence whereby BBC may resume this coverage at an agreed figure. This figure was not mentioned to me, but Campbell went on to say that before resumption, the BBC is endeavoring to recoup a part of the financial burden by getting AP and UP to accept increases in the price of the ticker service to them. It is hoped that in return for sharing this important TASS material with REUTERS, the news agencies may be willing to share the cost with the BBC.

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An interesting indication of AP's and UP's concern at the consistent beats on Moscow being scored by REUTERS came to my notice the other day. [redacted] USIS Information Officer, called me to say he had had an inquiry from them about the possibility of being served with the Russian Hellschreiber material from FBIS through the Embassy. I suspect they tried this method, realising full well we would not give it to them directly even if we had it. My response to [redacted] was that we did not cover, but looked to the BBC, who were not now covering for copyright reasons. Any arrangement for eventual service would have to be made with them.

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Similar copyright trouble is anticipated shortly in connection with a reported REUTERS-DPA deal. I shall acquaint you with any developments on this score by wire as soon as known.

Sincerely,

[redacted]
Chief, London Bureau

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